

Bulletin

NOVEMBER 20, 1947

KISLEV 7, 5708

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sabbath Eve Friday, November 21st, 8:30 p.m.
Mr. Irving Fineman will speak on "The Jew in the American Novel"

Sabbath Morning Saturday, November 22nd, 10:00 a.m.
Bachurim Group at 10:00 a.m.; Junior Congregation Service at 11:00 a.m.

Thanksgiving Day Thursday, November 27th, 11:00 a.m.
Rabbi Ira Eisenstein will preach the sermon.

Sabbath Eve Friday, November 28th, 8:30 p.m.
Rabbi Kertzer will speak on "The Movie War on Prejudice"
Do "Gentleman's Agreement" and "Crossfire" achieve their purpose?

Sabbath Morning Saturday, November 29th, 10:00 a.m.
Bachurim Group at 10:00 a.m.; Junior Congregation Service at 11:00 a.m.

SAJ-PARK AVE. THANKSGIVING DAY SERVICE — RABBI IRA EISENSTEIN TO DELIVER SERMON

Continuing a tradition established over the years, the Synagogue will hold a joint Thanksgiving Day Service with the Society for the Advancement of Judaism. This year the Park Avenue Synagogue will be the host congregation at a Service which will begin at 11:00 a.m. on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 27th.

The services will be conducted by Rabbi Steinberg and Rabbi Kertzer, and the sermon will be given by Rabbi Ira Eisenstein of the Society for the Advancement of Judaism. The musical portion of the Service will be given by Cantor Puterman, assisted by the Choir, with Mr. Isidore Geller at the organ.

becoming one of the most potent religious forces in American Jewish life.

Rabbi Drazin who spent the six years, from 1932 to 1938, in Palestine is also at present a member of the Interim Committee of the American Jewish Conference.

Rabbi Drazin's approach to the discussion of the evening will take into consideration the urgent need of holding Jewish youth true to the faith and practices of their religious group. He will present the platform on which the neo-orthodox groups expect to achieve their goals of a vibrant and growing Judaism which is still orthodox in basic outlook.

The final lecture will present the Reconstructionist viewpoint, and will be de-

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Irving Fineman Speaks This Friday Evening

Mr. Irving Fineman, one of the outstanding Jewish novelists of our time, will be the second speaker in the Adult Education Committee's Friday Evening Lecture Series when he occupies the pulpit on November 21st. He is talking on the provocative theme, "The Jew in the American Novel".

Author of the best-selling novel *Hear Ye Sons*, which brought him to the attention of the American reading public, Mr. Fineman is well qualified to speak on the subject of the evening. His latest book, *Jacob*, also has won him wide acclaim.

Most recently Mr. Fineman has served as a lecturer at the Jewish Theological Seminary. He had also taught at Bennington College in Vermont, following which he was on the staff of Columbia Pictures.

Among the novels portraying the American Jewish scene which will be discussed during the lecture are Sholom Asch's *East River* and Laura Z. Hobson's *Gentleman's Agreement*.

Following the service an *Oneg Shabbat* will be held in the Vestry to give all an opportunity to meet and discuss the topic with Mr. Fineman.

Dramatic Workshop Plans Hannukah Program

The newly organized Dramatic Workshop, under the direction of Clara Ostriker, held its first meeting on Thursday evening, November 13th, in the Vestry.

Another inspiring dramatic sketch taken from "The Eternal Light" radio program is planned for the annual *Hannukah* Party sponsored by the Sisterhood on Sunday evening, December 14th. Mr. Morton Wishengrad, author of "The Eternal Light" assisted the pro-

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Guest Rabbis Speak At

Adult Education Series

Rabbi William Drazin, rabbi of the First Congregation *Anshe Sefard* of Borough Park, will be the speaker of the evening at the third lecture of the Adult Education Committee series, "Recent Trends in the Jewish Religion", to be held in the Vestry on Monday evening, November 24th, at 8:30.

Rabbi Drazin who spent six years, first president of the Rabbinical Council of America, and is presently its Honorary President. An organization of orthodox rabbis whose concern it is to make their beliefs and practices more compatible with the current American scene, the Rabbinical Council is rapidly

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D. LEONARD COHEN

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Publicity Committee*

DUDLEY L. GREENSTEIN

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Contributors

Vol. 2

No. 4

From the Desk of Rabbi Kertzer

THIS month has been designated as Jewish Book Month, and our Synagogue is participating in programs designed to stimulate interest in Jewish literary creativity.

Dr. Cecil Roth, the eminent historian, took American Jewry to task for its illiteracy in the field of Jewish literature, and its inability to support or encourage creative writing as a fulltime vocation for a gifted author. Unless the writer finds his livelihood in one of the institutional phases of the Jewish community, he cannot be assured of a minimum scale of living through the products of his pen.

The American synagogue has been derelict in its obligation to the Jewish writer, indeed to the entire field of journalism as well. Once a year, our congregants are urged to buy Jewish books and magazines, but there has been little guidance and direction. Occasionally in conversation I refer to an article that is stimulating or entertaining, only to find that I am one of the few people who subscribe to the magazine containing the literary gem.

My feeling is that though many Jews have the urge to subscribe to books and periodicals, they never quite get around to doing so. I would suggest that the Synagogue, perhaps through its Adult Education Committee, participate in a joint subscription, charging each member who indicates his willingness a flat rate of ten dollars a year, to be collected by the Synagogue office. In return for which, each family would receive an annual subscription to the Jewish Publi-

cation Society, which would yield three outstanding Jewish books; a subscription to that effervescent weekly, the National Jewish Post, and a monthly such as the Jewish Spectator.

I know that I have a large back-log of unfulfilled intentions as do most of us who have a busy schedule, and we are prone to postponing subscriptions of all kinds. Were the Adult Education Committee to stimulate us, I have no doubt that a large number of congregants would participate in this expansion of our Jewish fare.

* * *

The other day some one was kind enough to send us a beautiful *Menorah* for *Hannukah*. The unique feature of this candelabrum is that it contains a music box which plays the *Mooz Tzur*. As I listened to the tinkling of 'Rock of Ages' I realized how far we have progressed in making available Jewish objects of beauty.

Making our home Jewish involves more than the creation of an intellectual or spiritual atmosphere. We must make it Jewish aesthetically as well. Two of the loveliest homes I have ever seen were in Cleveland and in Omaha. In the former city, a talented Jewish architect had designed his living room in a penthouse apartment with a full awareness of Jewish artistic values and traditions. In the later city, an educator had decorated his dining room, in a Hebraic motif, using the large table for the central theme in his Jewish design, to create a wonderful effect that pleased both the eye and the heart.

I hope that more of us will make our homes Jewish in this physical sense, so that it will be aesthetically appealing to our children, and draw them closer to Jewish artistic expression.

* * *

Can one learn to read Hebrew in a month? Rabbi Arfa, who is our new Hebrew School Principal and Educational Director, claims that it can be done. At least he has offered to try it experimentally in January, meeting a group twice a week for four weeks. Rabbi Arfa insists that some one altogether innocent of any knowledge of the alphabet can master enough in that period to follow the prayers, even with a slight limp. If you are interested in participating in the experiment, please let us know.

MORRIS N. KERTZER

Young Members Write Prayer for Jr. Service

The Better Service Committee of the Junior Congregation recently sponsored a contest for the writing of original prayers in order to enrich the service and make it more interesting. The following prayer was written by Peter and Paul Bienstock, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Bienstock and was read as the opening prayer on Saturday, November 1st.

THE HOLY TEMPLE

As we enter the Temple, we feel the presence of God, who created the universe and is the Father of us all. May the peace and quiet around us impress us with the beauty of Worship and help us to keep our hands clean and our hearts pure.

You, O Lord, are the Giver of our blessings and our life and we look to you for comfort in all our sorrows. We need you, O God. Be with us wherever we go. May our prayers on this day bring us to you that we may serve all the children with goodness and love.

Young Marrieds Meet

The first regular meeting of the Young Marrieds, Group B, took place on October 29th at the home of Jean and Sidney Mishkin. The chapter "Judaism On Jesus" from Rabbi Milton Steinberg's new book *Basic Judaism* was the topic for the evening.

Rabbi Morris Kertzer presented the highlights, and a very active discussion ensued. Other chapters of the book will be discussed at future meetings, since *Basic Judaism* covers much more material than can be intelligently discussed at one session.

The next meeting of this group will take place on Tuesday, November 25th at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Weissberger. The topic for the evening will be the "Effect of a Jewish State in Palestine on Us".

Young Marrieds, Group A, held their second meeting of the season at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Hartstein. To date, this group has covered two chapters of *Basic Judaism*, which is also being used as a regular study course by this group.

For Your Information

Increasingly, the members of the congregation are developing the practice of coming to the Synagogue to express gratitude for joy and to find consolation in sorrow.

Week after week newborn babies are named from our pulpit, brides and grooms receive a gracious benediction and the gift of a bridal Bible.

If there is a *simchah* in your family, you are urged to bring the joy of it to the Synagogue. Inform the office of your intention to be present at worship, and of the occasion, so that we may share in your happiness.

A chapter from Rabbi Steinberg's "As a Driven Leaf" has been included in a new anthology published by Crown Press entitled *Law in Action* an anthology of the law in literature, edited by "Amicus Curiae" (friend of the court) with an introduction by Roscoe Pound, formerly dean of Harvard Law School.

The anthology consists of famous descriptions of actions in law beginning with accounts in the Bible to the contemporary. Rabbi Steinberg's piece is a description of a dispute in the law courts of Palestine of the second century between an employer and his employees who are out on strike; it is an anticipation of the N.L.R.B. according to ancient rabbinic law.

The chapter is in the best of company, being preceded by an extract from Plutarch and Robert Graves and followed immediately by one from Rabelais and Cervantes.

Mrs. Theodore Kaplan, a member of the School Board and an active participant in all Synagogue affairs is the author of a short story in the September-October issue of *Story* magazine, the highbrow literary of short story fiction and the seed-bed of some of America's best authors of novels and short stories.

Mrs. Kaplan uses the pen name Alma Denny; her story is entitled *Schmuel Saves the Schule*.

Did you know that Victor J. Herwitz, counsel for the State Board of Social Welfare now investigating the New York City Department of Welfare's administration of relief has been one of our members for many years?

Birth

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Norman B. Orent on the birth of their daughter.

Bar Mitzvah

Best wishes to Dr. and Mrs. Jacob Buckstein on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Fred, on November 22nd; to Mr. and Mrs. Irving Geist on the Bar Mitzvah of their son John, on November 29th.

Bat Mitzvah

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. D. Leonard Cohen, whose daughter Janet Copa celebrated her *Bat Mitzvah*, on November 15th.

Birthday

The Synagogue takes pleasure in congratulating Rabbi Milton Steinberg on his birthday, November 25th.

Marriage

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Klein on the recent marriage of their son William Klein II to Faith Zimmer.

Anniversary

Best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Mortimer D. Milheiser who will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary on November 26th.

Death

The Synagogue extends its sympathy to Mrs. Joseph Janovic on the death of her mother, Mrs. Bertha Bloomberg.

Mr. Moe Turman of our congregation has just been elected President of the National Office Furniture Association.

Mr. Alvin Cowan announces his "second annual attempt" to round up fathers of boys twelve years and over who will join him in sponsoring a Boy Scout Troop in the Synagogue. This is a prerequisite ordered by the National Organization.

A fur scarf was found in the Synagogue several weeks ago. The owner is requested to see Mr. Emanuel Rosenthal at the Synagogue office.

Dudley L. Greenstein was elected Vice President for the New York Region of the National Young People's League of the United Synagogue of America at its recent convention.

School Highlights

The first open meeting of the Parents Association was held on Wednesday evening, November 12th, 1947. The featured speaker was Dr. Ben Edidin, author of many Jewish text-books, whose volumes are now in use in religious schools throughout the land. Dr. Edidin, who is Associate Director of the Jewish Education Committee and is pinch-hitting for Dr. Alexander Dushkin of the same group while the latter is on a trip, chose as his topic: "Jewish Books for Jewish Children."

Jewish Book Exhibit

The audience was treated further to an exhibit of current best-sellers among Jewish books, arranged by our Library Committee under the direction of Mrs. Seymour Wimpfheimer, Chairman. Browsers were able to take care of the *Hannukah*-Gift question at that time.

On that evening, also, Rabbi Kertzer presented a "request" discussion on Jewish Education. Some of his remarks about the place of the three-day-week school in Jewish Education, delivered during his *Succoth* sermon, were so cogent that he was requested to review them for members of the Parents' Association.

A musical feature was presented under the direction of Cantor Puterman. Mr. Jacob Boorstein was in charge of the program and Mrs. I. E. Gevirtz served as Chairman of Hospitality.

Mrs. George Heyman, Chairman of the Junior Holiday Observance Committee, is busy arranging surprises as well as the "usual" for a rousing and festive *Hannukah*.

Approve Enriched Program

At the request of the Board of Trustees, the matters of an enlarged and enriched program and the modified tuition schedule of the Religious School were presented to the Trustees for their approval at a Special Meeting called for that purpose on Thursday evening, October 23rd, 1947. Rabbi Kertzer and Cantor Puterman also attended the meeting, while Rabbi Steinberg sent word of his approval of our school program.

After a prolonged discussion on all aspects of the new enlarged and enriched program, the Board of Trustees approved it.

Junior League Dance Sunday, November 23rd

The second Junior League dance of the season will be held this coming Sunday afternoon, November 23rd at 3:15 p.m. in the Vestry. Miss Lois Drosin and Ed Kohn are co-chairmen. Admission will be \$1.25. Jeno Bartal's orchestra will provide the music. These dances of the Junior League which are held in the Vestry are the means of helping the Junior League raise money for the various charities to which it contributes. Everyone is urged to attend.

In line with the Committee of Adult Education's new Home Study program, the Junior League has organized its own group with Rabbi Milton Steinberg's *Basic Judaism* the topic for study and discussion. This study group, under the direction of Rabbi Abraham Karp, meets every other Tuesday evening. The next meeting is scheduled for December 2nd. Those members of the League who failed to attend the first session may still be enrolled by notifying Miss Jo Levy immediately.

The Membership Committee under the chairmanship of Miss Selma Jerskey is busy considering many applications for membership in the Junior League and will shortly announce our new members.

Dramatic Workshop

(Continued from Page 1)

duction committee in selecting a significant script for the holiday.

All members desirous of participating in the program are asked to attend the try-outs for parts on Thursday evening, November 20th and on Tuesday evening, November 25th at 8:30 p.m.

Mrs. Milton M. Sivek, chairman of the *Hannukah* celebration, announces that invitations will be sent to all members of the Park Avenue Synagogue. Admission will be by invitation only, and a capacity attendance is expected.

Refreshments and a social hour in the Vestry will follow "The Eternal Light" program presentation. The Refreshment Committee is comprised of Mrs. Samuel Geller, Chairman; Mrs. Joseph Druss, Mrs. Adolph Luebeck, Mrs. Marvin Spiegel and Mrs. Maurice Manheimer.

Plan to spend Sunday evening, December 14th at the Synagogue for a meaningful and memorable *Hannukah*.

Members Organize Home Study Groups

The Home Study Groups, sponsored by the Adult Education Committee, appear to be enlisting the enthusiastic response of the congregation as it was hoped they would when they were first proposed last spring.

At least three groups have been organized to discuss and study the theme of *Basic Judaism*, Rabbi Steinberg's latest book. The Junior League will be led by Rabbi Abraham Karp, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Council of the United Synagogue of America. The two other groups, Young Marrieds "A" and the group organized by Mrs. Milton Grass, will have Rabbi Kertzer as their leader.

Rabbi Emanuel Rachman, who is also a practicing lawyer, will lead a group of approximately 30 lawyers and judges in the Congregation in six monthly discussions on the subject "Concepts of Jewish Law." The first meeting was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Sokolow on November 19th. It is contemplated that Cantor Putterman will lead another study group, in synagogue and other Jewish music. Dr. Morton Ostow, eminent young Jewish psychiatrist, has been invited to be the discussion leader of a study group organized on the theme of "Dynamic Psychology and Religion." At the time of going to press, BULLETIN was informed that other groups are in the process of organization, but that final details are not yet available.

Members of the Congregation are invited to form study groups of their own, under the auspices of the Adult Education Committee. All requests for information should be addressed to Mr. Harold H. Levin, Chairman of the Committee, through the synagogue office.

Jewish Book Month Assembly

The children of the upper four grades are participating in a Jewish Book Month Assembly, to be held at *Anshe Chesed* Synagogue on Sunday morning, November 23rd, in cooperation with *S.A.J.*, *B'Nai Jeshurun* and *Anshe Chesed*. The program will be sponsored by the Jewish Education Committee.

Lecture Series

(Continued from Page 1)

livered by Rabbi Ira Eisenstein, Leader of the Society for the Advancement of Judaism, on Monday evening, December 1st, at 8:30. Rabbi Eisenstein has long been a familiar figure in our congregational life, and has graced our pulpit and participated in lectures and discussion with our groups frequently in years past.

Rabbi Eisenstein has been active in Jewish Communal life for many years. He is at present a member of the National Administrative Committee of the League for Labor Palestine, and a member of the National Council of Jewish Education. Rabbi Eisenstein, too, has spent extended visits in Palestine and is familiar with that aspect of Jewish life.

The final feature of the first series of lectures will be a symposium, to be held in the Vestry, on Monday evening, December 15th. The topic and speakers will be announced in the next issue of BULLETIN.

The Adult Education Committee extends a most cordial invitation to all members and their friends to attend any or all of these seminars.

Will You Attend?

Thursday, November 20th—8:00 p.m.—

Dramatic Workshop Tryouts, Synagogue.

Sunday, November 23rd—3:15 p.m.—

Junior League Dance, vestry.

Monday, November 24th—8:30 p.m.—

Rabbi William Drazin "What's New in Orthodox Judaism", Vestry.

Tuesday, November 25th—8:00 p.m.—

Dramatic Workshop Tryouts, Synagogue.

Tuesday, November 25th—8:30 p.m.—

Young Marrieds "B" at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Weissberger, 7 West 81 Street.

Monday, December 1st—8:30 p.m.—

Rabbi Ira Eisenstein "What's New in Reconstructionism", Vestry.

Tuesday, December 2nd—12:30 p.m.—

Sisterhood Program Committee meeting.

Wednesday, December 3rd—8:30 p.m.—

P.A. Executive meeting, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. Gotter, 9 East 96 Street.